shire of Ashburton
opportunity to community

Review of the Onslow Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP)

fact sheet

What is a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) and what does it do?

A CHRMAP is a strategic planning document which outlines a long-term plan to address the impact of coastal hazards on our coastline. It looks at various hazard scenarios within 25-, 50- and 100-year timeframes and examines the potential impact of coastal hazards, now and in the future, under projected climate change and sea level rise.

A CHRMAP is developed with input from the community and key stakeholders and identifies the most appropriate adaptation strategies and options.

The current Onslow CHRMAP was adopted by the Council in 2017. The document provided an assessment of coastal hazard risk for the shoreline areas around the Onslow Townsite and made recommendations for managing these risks to the Shire.

The current CHRMAP is available on the Shires website here

Why is the CHRMAP being updated?

A CHRMAP needs to be reviewed every 5–10 years to ensure that the plan remains current. The original Onslow Townsite CHRMAP was developed in 2017 and most of the recommendations have been implemented.

Given the evolving nature of coastal risks, there is a need to review and update the CHRMAP to continue to address the ongoing impacts of coastal hazards. The process recognises the uncertainty associated with making predictions for coastal areas that involve future climate change and sea level rise, and seeks to provide flexible decision-making pathways that can be evaluated over time as coastal hazards are realised.

Who is leading the CHRMAP review?

The Shire is leading this review project, with the assistance of a Steering Committee made up of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DoTMI), as well as a team of consultants with experience in coastal hazard and risk assessment, statutory and strategic planning, economic analysis and community engagement.

What work has happened since the current CHRMAP was prepared in 2017?

Several projects and studies have been completed since the current CHRMAP was prepared in 2017. These include assessments of the integrity and condition of the current seawall, an extension of the seawall to protect assets at the western end of town, catchment modelling of the town to identify areas which are at risk of inundation and the planning and delivery of major stormwater upgrades and new ocean outfalls.

The Shire monitors the condition of coastal infrastructure (such as the seawall and beach profile) and has conducted a number of studies in recent year's looking at Metocean Data (the study of weather and sea conditions including wind, waves, currents and tide) and its impact on existing and proposed infrastructure such as seawalls, ocean outfalls (stormwater drainage outlets) and future infrastructure. This work has improved our understanding of local coastal processes and the potential impact of extreme weather conditions.

In addition, a range of data has been collected across key coastal locations through various studies and projects. This includes geotechnical data and survey information, which are critical for assessing current and future coastal hazard risks.

Since 2017, the Shire has also adopted several new planning documents, including updated local planning strategies, planning schemes and coastal planning policies that guide future development in coastal areas.

The CHRMAP update will incorporate this new information to refine the assessment of coastal hazards associated with erosion and inundation, and will consider the current planning framework in the context of these projects and studies.

What are coastal values?

Coastal values encompass the scenic, ecological, recreational, social, cultural, indigenous, and economic qualities of the coastal zone. Planning aims to balance competing uses; recreational, residential, industrial, and commercial, while considering coastal hazards. These values contribute to the wellbeing and health of the Western Australian community. Further guidance is provided in the **Shire's CHRMAP** and the **State Planning Policy 2.6, *State Coastal Planning Policy*.**

What is a coastal hazard?

Coastal hazards are natural events that affect the coastline, such as erosion or flooding. Erosion occurs when waves, tides, wind, or human activities wear away the shore, altering its shape and reducing land area. Inundation happens when water covers previously dry land, either temporarily, during storms, high tides, or large waves, or permanently, as with sea level rise.

What might be the strategies and options for managing coastal hazards?

There are four overarching 'strategies' for managing coastal hazards. These are:

Avoid (erosion and inundation)
Identify 'non-build' areas for the future to ensure development does not occur within hazard areas.

Managed Retreat (erosion and inundation)
Continue to use assets until the coastal hazard risk becomes too high, at which point assets at risk are withdrawn or relocated.

Accommodate (inundation)
Continue to use the land while accommodating changes through building design, such as raised floor levels or structures that can withstand flooding, or by converting land use.

Protect (erosion and inundation)
Use hard engineering or nature-based solutions to protect land from the impacts of coastal hazards, such as seawalls, revetments and sand nourishment.

Where can I learn more about coastal hazard planning?

Coastal hazard planning in Western Australia is guided by State Planning Policy 2.6 – Coastal Planning and the State Coastal Planning Policy Guidelines. These documents provide the overarching planning framework that informs how coastal hazards, such as erosion and inundation, are identified, assessed and managed across the State.

Following the adoption of the Onslow Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP), the Shire of Ashburton uses these State policies, along with relevant local planning policies and strategies, to guide future land use and development decisions in coastal areas.

The CoastWA Training Series provides relevant videos and training material to gain a better understanding of the process.
https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/coastwa-training-series

Links to key planning documents and relevant policies are available here:

- https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-planning-policy-26-coastal-planning
- https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-07/GD_CST_coastal_hazard_risk_management-guidelines-July2019.pdf

How could the outcomes of the Onslow CHRMAP affect me?

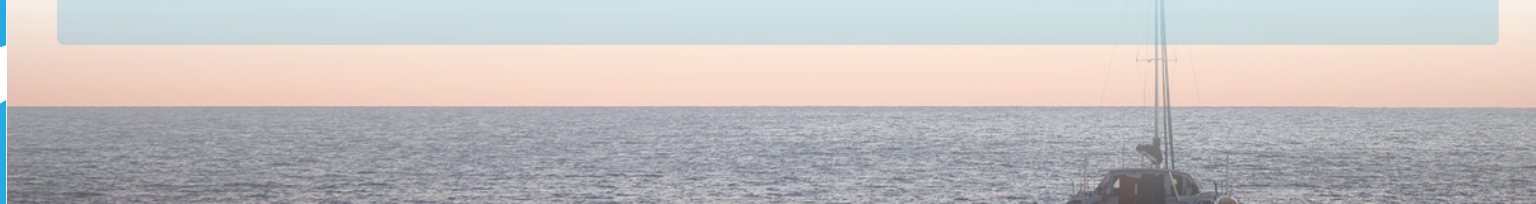
The Onslow CHRMAP has been developed to guide the Shire of Ashburton's decision-making and long-term management of Onslow's coastline. It is a strategic plan that helps identify current and future coastal hazards and outlines options for managing risks associated with erosion and inundation.

If you live, work, own property, operate a business or regularly visit Onslow's coastal areas, the outcomes of the CHRMAP may influence how these areas are planned, used and protected into the future. This could include how beaches, foreshore areas, public facilities and infrastructure are managed or adapted over time.

Community input is essential to ensure the CHRMAP reflects local values, priorities and aspirations. For example, if you regularly use a local beach, it is important to consider how erosion or flooding could affect access, safety and enjoyment now and for future generations.

The Shire encourages community members and key stakeholders to get involved in the CHRMAP process by providing feedback on preferred management options and helping shape how coastal risks are managed in Onslow.

Complete the Coastal Values Survey Here



When will the updated CHRMAP be completed?

The Shire and consultant team have begun work on the review of the CHRMAP, with the first round of community engagement scheduled to commence in August.

Key stages and dates for the project include:

April–May 2026	Project Establishment
June	Risk Identification **(updating mapping)**
July	Risk and Vulnerability Analysis
July	Risk Evaluation
August	Community Engagement
August - September	Risk Treatment
September	Implementation Planning
September	Monitor and Review
October	Draft CHRMAP **Open for public comment**
December	Final CHRMAP **Adopted by Council**